

HERSETH SANDLIN ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$3.5M IN FUNDING FOR TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Washington, DC-Today, Rep. Herseth Sandlin announced four tribal transportation projects have received \$3.5625 in funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Rep. Herseth Sandlin has made funding requests for two of these projects through annual appropriations bills. The other two are the recipients of grant funding from the DOT. Rep. Herseth Sandlin has requested further funding for these ongoing projects as part of the upcoming Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009, or highway bill.

The projects receiving funding at the request of Herseth Sandlin include:

- \$ 475,000 for Reconstruction of BIA Route 15, Marshall County, Lake Traverse Indian Reservation
- \$ 237,500 for Kenel Road (BIA Route 3) Rehabilitation and Resurfacing, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Corson County

The projects receiving grant funding from the DOT include:

- \$ 1,900,000 for Resurfacing of Cuny Table Road (BIA Route 2), Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
- \$ 950,000 Improvements to SD 73 from US 18 to Jackson County Serving Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservation

"These projects are critical priorities in Indian Country and the improvements to the roads will improve access, safety, and connectivity for tribal and nontribal members," Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. "I'm pleased that these projects will receive this critical funding, and I will continue to work closely with each tribe to support continued funding for these and other tribal transportation priorities in the upcoming highway bill reauthorization."

Reconstruction of Cuny Table Road on Pine Ridge will provide a vastly improved roadway that provides an east to west connection between two major north/south Bureau of Indian Affairs

highways (BIA Rt. 41 and BIA Rt. 27). The road serves numerous ranches, a store and café plus a campground. This route is part of the Oglala Sioux Tribe's proposed Scenic Byway system. The current gravel surface on BIA Route 2 is not as conducive to travel as the proposed changes. Negotiating the existing gravel road presents challenges to motorists, including Tribal law enforcement personnel. The benefits would be to provide safer travel with less vehicle maintenance to the traveling public and would probably help the local economy by increasing the users at the café/campground. The improvements will enhance access to lands administered by the Tribe, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Park Service.

Improvements on BIA 15 will benefit all those living along BIA Route 15 including Tribal and non-tribal members. The project will provide improved access to lands administered by the Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The project will also alleviate excessive maintenance requirements that currently exist. SD 73 serves residents of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and Bennett County with major north/south access for goods and services. The present roadway pavement condition has declined and is in need of resurfacing. Children residing in this area are transported to school on this roadway. The highway also functions as a farm to market road, and US mail route that serves the area. Access to lands administered by the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will be enhanced as a result of project implementation.

Kenel Road improvements will provide a safer roadway for vehicles and reduce high maintenance costs. The existing paved roadway has seen extreme deterioration in recent years at various locations. The roughness of the roadway alone in many areas makes travel hazardous. The paved roadway requires frequent spot patching to keep it somewhat smooth and safe. The new paved surface will greatly reduce the cost necessary to maintain the roadway. A rehabilitated surface with appropriate centerline and edge striping will also make the roadway safer for the traveling public. Access to adjacent lands administered by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will be greatly improved.

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